No. 186. Multnoma Falls, Columbia River
Highway, Oregon.
B.C. Markham
The Dalles Ore.

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The Dalles - Tue.

Dearest Tim:

No, dear, I am going to put this in an envelope so don't get excited.

Left Yoncalla at five Mon. morning and got into Portland at eleven thirty and into the Dalles sometime after five last night. Ye Gods but it was horrible, for I never was so tired before from riding and sick. Many a time I thot I could feed the tramps along the road. Aren't you glad you weren't one? Some of the poor d— surely looked as tho they needed something to eat.

The Columbia River Highway was beautiful. Stopped at the falls last ten miles and walked up to the foot of them. Missed all the time you were with me. Love - Paul.

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REFLECTIONS

Postcard from Blanche Toner Dear to Tim Dear, The Dalles, Oregon — c 1930
Multnomah Falls, R. C. Markham
Jeffrey Hunt August 10 2025

This circa-1930 postcard of Multnomah Falls was sent by my grandmother, Blanche Toner Dear, to my grandfather, Tim Dear. It was never mailed, likely tucked into an envelope along with the many letters they exchanged—now gathered in a shoebox.

Blanche had just finished normal school in Monmouth, Oregon, and this may have been the journey to her first teaching assignment in the remote community of Wapinitia, southeast of Mount Hood near Pine Grove. Her small class—only a few children, mostly from one family—felt, as she wrote in her letters, more like childcare than teaching, and she never seemed to warm to it. I believe she was very lonely there.

The trip probably began in Yoncalla with a long bus ride north through Portland and then east to The Dalles. Somewhere along the way she stopped at Multnomah Falls, pausing to take in the towering waterfall and to write Tim about it. The letter captures the backdrop of the Depression—she notes the poor, hungry souls she passed along the road—and her own exhaustion from the trip. Even so, she wanted to share the moment with Tim, who may have been stationed with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Crater Lake at the time.

Not long afterward, Blanche and Tim eloped, keeping their marriage secret because married women were often barred from teaching. She soon left the profession, and they settled in Camas, Washington, where Tim had already been working at Crown Zellerbach and living with his sister, Mary Dear Beauchamp, a 1925 graduate of Washougal High School. The reason the Dear family moved to Washougal at that time remains unclear—most likely for employment.

This postcard offers a vivid glimpse into their early life together—travel, separation, and a Columbia River Gorge landmark in its golden-age postcard era. Measuring 3 ⅜ by 5 7⁄16 inches, it is a standard postcard size, with the message written from The Dalles, Oregon. Notably, it bears the signature "Paul," Tim's affectionate nickname for Blanche.